

GillyMac Super Quick Drawstring Gift Bag



I made 25 of these gorgeous bags this Christmas and if you do them in batches then they are incredibly quick to make. My tips for batch sewing are provided at the end of these instructions.

Requirements for a bag that will end up 8" x 5.5"

- ✓ Exterior Fabric x 2 pieces 6" X 8.5"
- ✓ Ribbon Casing (I used exterior fabric) 2 pieces 2" x 5"
- ✓ Interior/Lining Fabric x 2 pieces 6" x 8.5"
- ✓ Ribbon – 2 pieces ¾" ribbon 15" long
- ✓ 2 large wooden beads (optional)

Keeping the same proportions, the bag can be scaled up/down to any size.

Method

All seam allowances are ¼" unless otherwise stated.

1. With the ribbon casing, fold it in half lengthways (eg. So it is 5.5" x 1"), press it with your finger to create a crease and let it open again. Now fold both long edges into the centre crease and press with an iron. Repeat with the other piece.



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2. Trim the short edges of the ribbon casing with pinking shears. You could fold it over and sew it, but pinking shears are much quicker.
3. Now sew the ribbon casing onto the exterior piece. The ribbon casing should be placed parallel with the top edge of the exterior piece, with the top long edge of the ribbon casing 1" below the top edge of the exterior piece. Pin it in place. Topstitch the top long edge and the bottom long edge of the ribbon casing to the exterior – You just want to catch the ribbon casing with this topstitch hence sewing 1/8" from the edge of the casing is a good distance. Now the ribbon casing is fixed onto the exterior and will have a channel ready for the ribbon to run through later.
4. Repeat step 3 with the other ribbon casing and exterior piece.
5. Place the two exterior pieces right sides together and sew around the long side, the bottom and the other long side, leaving the top unsewn.
6. Repeat step 5 with the lining pieces, however leave a 3" hole in the bottom for turning right side out later.
7. With the exterior right side out and the lining wrong side out, place the exterior inside the lining. At this point the exterior and linings will be right sides together. Match the seams and sew the lining to the exterior around the top of the bag.
8. Turn the bag right sides out through the hold in the lining. Topstitch around the top edge of the bag about 1/8" in.
9. Hand or machine sew the hold in the lining.
10. Using a bodkin or safety pin thread one of the ribbons through the front ribbon casing and back ribbon casing on the exterior of the bag. Tie in a loose knot. Repeat this again with the other ribbon, starting at the opposite end of the front ribbon casing.
11. Attach beads to the ends of the ribbons if you wish.
12. When you pull on the ribbons the bag will close automatically.



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Tips for Batch Sewing

- 1) Cut the ribbon casing as 2" strips width of fabric and used a binding maker such as this https://www.amazon.co.uk/Clover-25-Bias-Tape-Maker-x/dp/B001703IYW/ref=sr_1_16?ie=UTF8&qid=1545087651&sr=8-16&keywords=binding+tape+maker Then cut the pieces to size and trim with pinking shears
- 2) Cut the exterior and lining fabric by cutting strips width of fabric ... for example, I cut 8.5" strips of fabric and then cut them down into 6" pieces
- 3) Follow the instruction for each stage and complete for all pieces. Don't not make the bags one at a time, instead do step 1 for all bags, then step 2 for all bags etc.